

**CHAPTER NO. 525**

**SENATE BILL NO. 2943**

**By Williams**

**Substituted for: House Bill No. 2896**

**By Westmoreland, Roach, Montgomery**

AN ACT To amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 3, Part 6, relative to the exercise of police powers by employees of the Department of Correction.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:


SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 4-3-609, is amended by adding the following new subdivision (b) and redesignating existing subdivision (b) accordingly:

(b) Subject to the written directive of the commissioner, persons employed by the Department of Correction as internal affairs investigators or as the director of internal affairs who have successfully completed firearms qualification training shall have the authority to carry weapons for the purposes of their offices and while in the performance of their assigned duties, including, but not limited to, conducting authorized investigations and assisting federal, state and local law enforcement in matters relating to the duties and responsibilities of the department. The required firearms qualification training for internal affairs investigators shall include, at a minimum, forty (40) hours initial training and eight (8) hours annual in-service training in firearms qualification administered by an instructor with certification from the Tennessee Correction Academy's firearms instructor program or from a police firearms instructor training program conducted or sanctioned by the Federal Bureau of Investigation or the National Rifle Association. Successful completion of training shall include demonstration of proficiency of at least seventy percent (70%) both during day and darkness on all weapons issued or authorized by the Department of Correction, and proficiency of at least seventy percent (70%) on a stress-exertion course, both day and night, which has a laterally moving target.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

**PASSED: March 14, 2002**

  
JOHN S. WILDER  
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

  
JIMMY NAIFEH, SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**APPROVED this 19<sup>th</sup> day of March 2002**

  
DON SUNDQUIST, GOVERNOR